

John M. Lightner was first Lieutnant in this Company from Huntersville.

The third Company formed was that of Captain Arbogast at Greenbank. It too, was attached to the 31st Virginia Infantry. Captain Arbogast was afterward promoted to Major of the regiment. Lieutenant H. M. Poague of Pocahontas County but serving in a Bath County Company was killed in action at Warrenton Virginia, October 12 1863.

Lieutnant James McLaughlin, of Captain Stofer's Company from Huntersville was wounded at Shepherdstown and died at Winchester, Virginia. The loss was considerable on both sides. Among that of the Confederates was that of Captain Anderson of the Lynchburg Artillery and Captain J. C. Whitmer of the Pocahontas Rifles.

In the Civil War the first engagement which occurred in Pocahontas County was at Camp Bartow on what is known as the Peter Yeager farm known as Traveler's Repose. Late in the summer of 1861 a Confederate force was collected at this point. It consisted of the first Georgia Infantry, Col. Ramsey commanding; the twelfth Georgia, Colonel Edward Johnson in command; the 31st Virginia Infantry, Colonel William L. Jackson and Colonel Hansbro's Battalion; the Churchville Cavalry from Churchville, Augusta County, commanded by the Captain J. C. McMutt; the entire force under the command of General Henry L. Jackson.

On the 14th of September, 1861, this force <sup>was</sup> attacked by the Federals under command of Generals Reynolds and Rosecrans.

The firing began early in the morning and continued until night-fall when the Federals withdrew and fell back to Cheat Mountain summit. The Confederate loss was thirty-six killed. That of the Federals unknown. A few days later the Confederates fell back to Camp Allegheny, and after being reinforced by two regiments, one of which was the 52nd Virginia Infantry, under Colonel John Baldwin, they fortified a strong natural position. Here in December they were again attacked by the Federals and the engagement continued throughout the day, but terminated as had the first, in the repulse of the Federals.

#### BATTLE OF RICH MOUNTAIN

On the 23rd day of June 1861 General McClellan assumed command of the Federal forces in Western Virginia and began a series of movements which met with no successful resistance until the ~~Federals~~<sup>Confederates</sup> were compelled to retreat beyond the mountains. He marched against General Pegrim who with a force of 4000 infantry had taken up a strong position on Rich Mountain which is also known by that name in Pocahontas County. Pegrim sent 2500 men and a battery of artillery to resist the advance of Rosecrans. They were the first to reach the top of the Mountain and here the Federals were greeted by a discharge of Artillery and their advance checked. Soon they were reinforced by an Indiana regiment. A charge was made along the entire line. The Confederates fell back and at once began a hasty retreat.

The mountain was strewn with the dead and the wounded,

150 being burned on the field. Pegrim finding no way of escape a few days later surrendered his entire forces prisoners of war.

General R. E. Lee in West Virginia.

General ~~RxxE~~ Lee, the ablest officer in Virginia, marched at the head of 9000 men against General Reynolds who was lying with a considerable force at Cheat Mountain. The attack was made on the 14th of September and after several hours severe fighting Lee was forced to retreat, leaving 100 dead upon the field.

Among the dead was Colonel John Washington, a recent proprietor of Mount Vernon. Lee's army halted on the banks of the Greenbrier river and began to entrench itself. General Reynolds, after receiving re-enforcements set out on the 2nd of October from Cheat Mountain with a force of 5000 men to drive Lee from his position. Colonel Kimball with the 14th Indiana led the advance while General Milroy, with a portion of his brigade was to deploy to the left, drive in the pickets and force the Confederates within the entrenchments.

At daylight he/ arrived at Greenbrier bridge and found it occupied. A charge was made, the bridge carried and a crossing effected. Then began an artillery duel which fairly shook the surrounding mountains. Soon three of Lee's guns were disabled and he again retreated. The Federal Loss was eight killed and thirty-two wounded. Lee left General Johnson of Georgia with 2000 men on the summit of the Alleghenies,

*Robert A. Jones*

*General R. E. Lee in West Virginia*

and continued his march to Staunton. Milroy marched against Johnson, taking with him the 13th Indiana and two other regiments. On the 15th of December he reached Camp Allegheny where he found the Confederates strongly fortified.

An engagement took place, the results of which were not advantageous to either side, the loss being 130 on both sides. Milroy withdrew and fell back to Cheat Mountain.

*Richard H. Grager*  
*Pocahontas Co -*

Above all taken from Hardesty's Encyclopedia.

Chapter 7

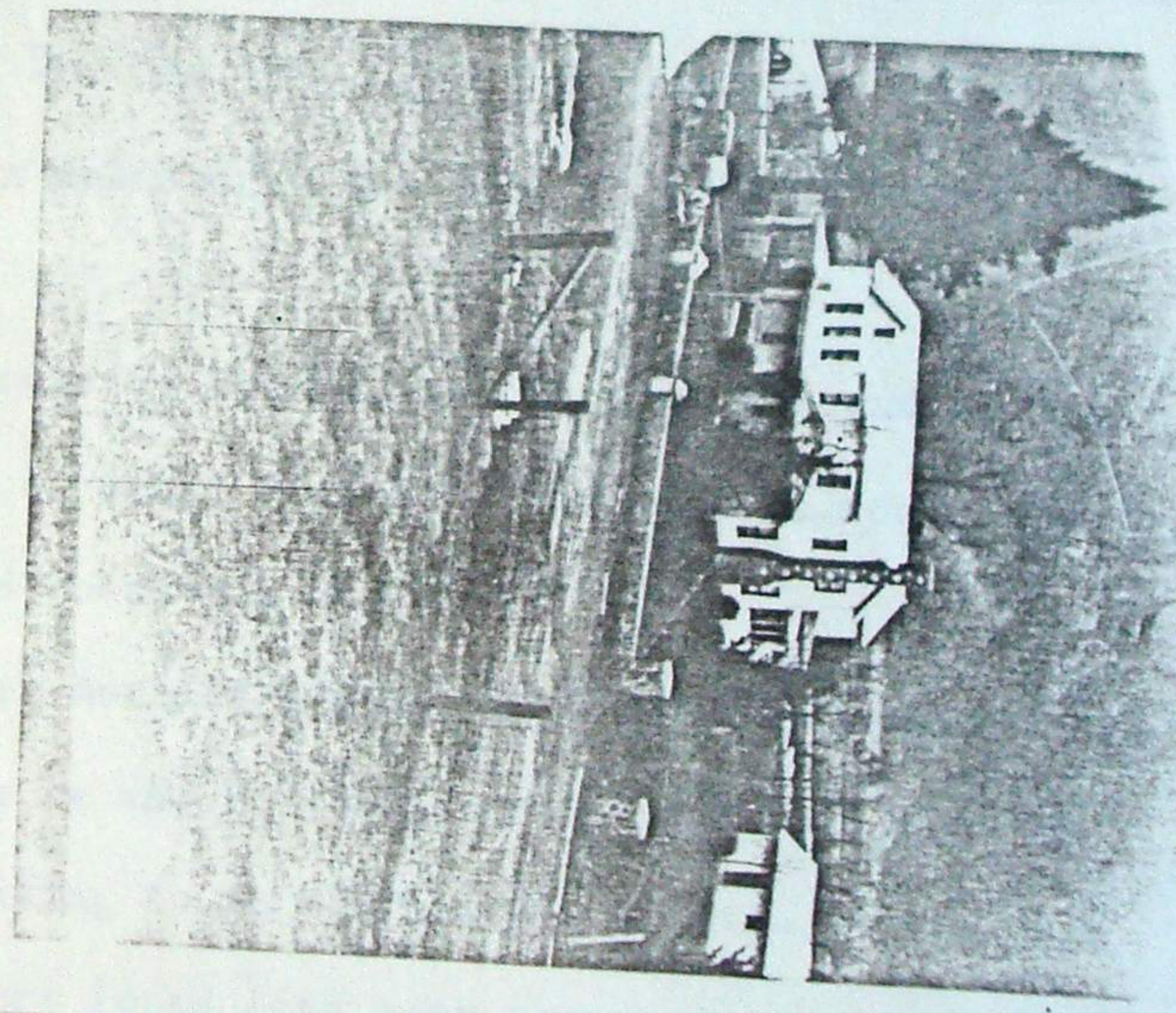
Juanita Dilley  
Clover Lick  
Pocahontas County

47



Juanita S. Dilley  
Pocahontas County

A part of the Confederate fortifications at Camp Bartow at Travelers Repose. Two cannons were stationed here. This and several others are still to be found on this battle field.



Historic Travelers Repose as it is today. The only regular stage coach stop in the county. The original building was practically destroyed during the Civil War. Mr. B. B. Beard who now owns it tells me that the front part of the house is pretty much as it was rebuilt by Peter Yeager after the war.

Juanita S. Dilley

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

March 23, 1940

CHAPTER 4 - SECTION 4b - 3

Many of our citizens were arrested during the war for being sympathizers on one side or the other. The following are a few of the names I have been able to find. Also some were killed for their beliefs.

Thomas Galford was a pronounced Confederate sympathizer and was regarded as a dangerous citizen to be at large in war times. He was arrested by a detachment of Union soldiers under Captain Nelson Fray, sent to Camp Chase where he died during the war.

John Smith of Stony Creek was a Union sympathizer. He was arrested by the Confederate militia, but was proven not dangerous and was released on parole. He died before he got back home.

Richard Auldridge was a Confederate sympathizer and was killed. His two sons were in the southern army. The one son, John Auldridge was killed at Gettysburg. The other son, Allen Auldridge, was discharged as a brave and faithful soldier.

Josiah Beard was taken prisoner by Federal troops near the end of the war, though he was past 70 years of age. Something was said to rouse his ire, and he challenged the whole squad to single combat.

Henry Arbogast was a sincere, decided but harmless sympathizer with the Union cause. When last seen alive he and his neighbor Eli Buzzard were in charge of a squad of persons claiming to be confederate scouts. A few days afterwards these two civilians were found dead near the roadside, about half way between their homes at Glade Hill and Frost. From the attitude in which Arbogast's body was found it is inferred that he died in the act of prayer.

William R. Moore lived near Edray. He was greatly respected. His sympathies were with the Union adherents, and he died at Wheeling during the war.  
(From) (Prices History of Pocahontas)

Juanita S. Dilley

George Burner was a Jacksonian democrat, and strange to say one of the original Pocahontas secessionists, so intense his devotions to state rights had become.

(The question of secession was the main issue in Pocahontas. Many had already freed their slaves because they did not believe in slavery, yet they did not believe in setting them all free at once.)

Jacob Slaven lived on the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike. Many people traveled this route, and the home of Jacob Slaven was well known as a place of hospitality. Governor Joe Johnson and Stonewall Jackson have stopped here to enjoy trout and venison. Everything seemed prosperous and pleasant with Jacob Slaven until the terrible ravages of war laid his home in ashes, and exiled the happy inmates.

Few places in the county were so ravaged by war as was upper Pocahontas.

From - Prices' History.

Irregular Warfare - Bushwhacking. In the spring of 1862 with the regular troops swept out of the county, the irregular fighters began to cause trouble. They called them gorillas at first, but later coined the word bushwhackers. It was the curse of a brave and impetuous people, such as are to be found in the mountains that they could not help taking part in the fighting whether they had been sworn in or not. They carried guns like city men carry canes, and they shot on one side or the other according to their convictions.

Milroy in a letter to Gen. W. S. Rosecrans wrote on March 18, 1862. This day was set as the day for drafting of the militia of Pocahontas and Highland counties. Many citizens to escape draft were hiding in the mountains and trying to escape. Seven have arrived here yesterday.

March 18th Milroy wrote that 64 refugees from Pocahontas and Highland had come to him to escape being drafted into the rebel army; that the penalty to refuse to be drafted was death. March 31st Milroy reported refugees

continue to come. This day 12 arrived from Pocahontas and reported that the impressment still continued.

April 4, 1862 General William Skeen wrote to Confederate headquarters that these men that Virginia had authorized to organize as regulars for the home defense were devastating the country and had killed three citizens of Pocahontas and stolen 15 horses. He complained of them as bitterly as did the Federal generals.

Regular troops were withdrawn after the Battle of Top Allegheny. Then it was hundreds of able-bodied men took up arms to defend themselves, and there were uneasy times.

Soldiers at home on furlough responded to appeal for assistance and little armies would spring up in a day, have a skirmish, and disband as quickly as they had come together. It was but an echo of the minute men of the Revolution. The battle of Duncan's Lane was the largest battle fought in Pocahontas by these troops and furlough soldiers, though there was continual smaller skirmishes.

The courts did not meet and the citizens suffered from the needs of soldiers of both armies and from the irregular troops. It is certain that nowhere in the country was there more peril to inhabitants than in the county of Pocahontas. This danger was so great because of the division of sentiment.

From - West Virginia blue book 1928

There was a skirmish at Marlins Bottom April 19, 1864, Captain J. W. Marshall's Co. of the 19th Virginia Cavalry came upon a company of Federal soldiers identity unknown, and chased them north toward Edray.

#### LAST BATTLE

The last battle of the Civil war was fought at Brandy Hallow near Huntersville, on the site of Camp Northwest on the 16th day of May 1865.

This engagement was fought between the 8th Ohio Cavalry and a portion of Gen. W. L. Jackson's army returning to their homes after the surrender.

From - 1928 W. Va. Blue Book - by Andrew Price

particularly shy in doing so. Many of  
 - - - - - eat them.



## CIVIL WAR

April 3, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin  
Marlinton, W. Va.POCAHONTAS COUNTY

-1-

Chapter 4--Section 4--Part bReminiscences of Civil War Days.  
By Evelyn Yeager Beard.

In the fall and winter of 1861-62 the Confederate soldiers camped at Camp Allegheny, my old home place, under the command of Jose (Ed) Johnson. The sugar grove belonging to my father, John Yeager, consisting of about five hundred trees was used for building the camps and cabins. This location could be used as a point of vantage, as by using field glasses they could observe the movements of the Union soldiers camped on top of Cheat Mountain, near the Clubhouse.

The year of 1861-62 was a cold and rainy year. Many of the soldiers camping there were from the South. I remember them as being not very warmly clad, and shivering with cold. Not being used to the cold, damp climate many of them sickened and died, and were buried on a little hill back of our house.

Our back porch was partitioned off to be used as a commissary by Uncle Jake Arbogast. The soldiers wanting tobacco, candy, etc., would have to wait their turn. The room being small, and at times crowded, they would ask me to make their purchases for them. Being a child and small, they would make room for me. I would make their purchases and then receive a liberal share of the candy. I was a youngster of about ten and my brother, Mack Yeager (Paul McNeel Yeager) eight. The officers and soldiers made a lot over us children. Receiving boxes from home they would invite us down to help eat them. Of course we were not particularly shy in doing so. Many of

## POCAHONTAS COUNTY

-2-

the cakes were decorated so fancy that as children we thought there was nothing in the world like them. Colonel McCune would often let me wear the big plume he wore in his hat, and it was a gala day for me when I would have the privilege of wearing it. When leaving Camp Allegheny, he gave me the plume, taking it from his hat, saying I could keep it for always.

One of the skirmishes of the Civil War was fought at this point, called Church Hill, ~~at~~ Camp Allegheny. While but a skirmish, it was a hard fought one and lasted from about 4 A.M. until after 2 P.M. If I remember correctly, nineteen were killed. I remember the shots falling on the roof of our house like hail. My mother and sister Fannie were ill at this time. During a lull in the battle Colonel Baldwin of the 52nd Virginia Regiment had them carried over on cots to his own cabin for safety, and they remained there during the night. My brother Mack Yeager and myself watched the remainder of the battle from a point of safety. We saw the Confederate flagman fall, and saw the flag almost instantly raised again, believe by Lieut. Rigor, but I am not positive about the name. Capt. Mollohan was killed in the battle of Church Hill, and was buried there along with many others. A spent ball passed between my brother the late Henry Yeager, and Rachel Arbogast, who was visiting us. Capt. Anderson, Confederate was killed by advanced guard of Union soldiers dressed in Confederate uniform. Capt. Anderson waved to them, thinking they were Confederate men and he was instantly killed.

After the battle was over there were several wounded men to be taken care of. The cabins were unsuitable, and my mother

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

-3-

had the upstairs of our house converted into a temporary hospital. Our house was under construction when war broke out, and was not then complete. The upstairs was one large room. Several of the wounded men died, and were buried along by those killed in battle. For a brief period a downstairs room was occupied by a sick officer, with his wife and baby. Later this same room was used as a Post Office kept by Uncle Jake Arbogast. The front part of this house is still in good condition, the remainder being torn down. We had quite a collection of sabers, cannon balls, musket balls and minnie balls which we used in our play. Ed Freeman, living at the present time at the old home place at Allegheny church, finds some of the musket balls occasionally when plowing his fields. He gave some of them to us when we had a family reunion picnic there in the summer of 1924. The old batteries and trenches are still in evidence.

A Confederate soldier was sick in one of the camps of the 31st Virginia Regiment when a Union soldier crept into the cabin to steal provisions, thinking the cabin was empty. The sick soldier crawled to the door after him and shot him.

My father, John Yeager, died December 2, 1861, and was believed to have been poisoned.

In the spring of 1862 the Confederates broke camp on Top Allegheny. At two o'clock the same night of their leaving John Slaten and two or three other men set fire to the commissary cabins and camps by igniting every other cabin. My mother pleaded with them to save them so as to be used for stables and out-

## POCAHONTAS COUNTY

-4-

buildings, but they told her she should be thankful they were not burning the house. The 52nd and 31st Virginia Regiment camps were completely destroyed, but a few of the other cabins were saved.

When the Confederates broke camp in the spring 1862, my brothers, Will and Henry Yeager, Crawford Arbogast and others went with them, Will and Henry joining Company G. 31st Virginia Regiment, Earle's Division, Ewell's Corps. Will was killed Feb. 6, 1865 at Hatcher's Run near Petersburg, Virginia, and was buried there. Henry Yeager and W. H. Hull were captured and made prisoners at Fort Steadman near Petersburg on March 25, 1865, and taken to Point Lookout, Maryland. They were released alphabetically, W. H. Hull the early part of July, and Henry sometime later.

After so many of our own boys had joined the army, mail became an important item in the lives of those at home. All of our mail, as well as that of the neighbors, had to be gotten from Hightown, Virginia, eleven miles away, only one house being located along the way. The person making the trip would bring mail for all in the neighborhood. Practically every family had someone that belonged to them in the war. The boys, before leaving, decided that when any of them wrote a letter, they would mention the ones they knew and had seen, so each family would hear as often as possible. Mail in those days was not a daily occurrence as it is now, and receiving word, however indirectly, would be a comfort to the ones at home. When our turn came for getting the mail, I was usually the one that rode horse-